(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard and by when the said social groups would be recognised as tribes?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) and (b) There were demands for inclusion of Banjara and Anwal communities in the Scheduled Tribes list of undivided Uttar Pradesh. A request has been received from the State Government of Uttarakhand for inclusion of Banjara community in Scheduled Tribes list of Uttarakhand, but the State Government of Uttarakhand did not recommend the inclusion of Anwal community in ST list of Uttarakhand. Proposals for inclusion of a community in the list of Scheduled Tribes are considered on the following criteria (i) Indications of primitive traits, (ii) Distinctive culture, (iii) Geographical isolation, (iv) Shyness of contact with the community at large, and (v) Backwardness. The Government in June, 1999, had approved these modalities for deciding claims for inclusion in and exclusion from and other modifications in the Orders specifying Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lists, which requires consent of the concerned State Government, Registrar General of India and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes.

(c) The proposal of Banjara community for inclusion in Scheduled Tribes list of Uttarakhand has been processed, as per the approved modalities, which requires consensus of the three aforementioned agencies and this takes time. Therefore, no specific time-frame can be mentioned at present.

Decline in living stadards of Vanrawats and Buxa in Uttarakhand

†2276. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is constant decline in the standards of living of 'Vanrawats' a primitive tribe and Buxa, a Scheduled Tribe in Uttarakhand and the infant mortality rate and the average age amongst them is also on the decline; and

(b) if so, the details of the measures being taken to improve their living standards and the amount proposed to be spent thereon during 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI. P. R. KYNDIAH): (a) The notified Scheduled Tribes of Uttarakhand are Bhotia, Buksa, Jaunsari, Raji and Tharu. But tribe-wise information on standards of living, infant mortality rate and average age is not available.

(b) Does not arise.

Safety of adivasis in Andaman and Nicobar Islands

†2277. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Mil the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a committee constituted by Government has observed that, due to increasing population and construction activities, the existence of adivasis (tribais) in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is in constant danger;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.